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MPC GRAM SERIES 11 No.2305 1 APRIL 2016

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SHOW CALENDAR



**MPC Gram  
#12345**

**Greg  
Hale**

**Gregory Hale  
is an  
Australian  
collector,  
author and  
researcher of  
military**

numismatics from World War II in the South West Pacific. He will be the keynote speaker at MPC Fest 17. The theme for this year's Fest is the South West Pacific Area. Presentations at MPC Fest are called staff briefings.

>From an early age Greg was fascinated with military numismatics and is an avid collector of military notes, coins, stamps and ephemera. His main collecting focus is Japanese invasion money.

Greg enjoys uncovering the stories behind JIM notes; the counterfeiting; note design and use of imagery and propaganda. He is at-heart a collector and enjoys the challenge of building sets by collecting by prefix.

Through his quest for knowledge and after many years of research, he has written and published The Collector's Guide to Japanese Invasion Money. The book has been sold worldwide and is held by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, State and National Libraries in Australia, Oxford University in the UK, the American Numismatic Society, and is used by collectors around the world.

Greg studied art and design at university. He holds a Masters Degree in design and currently runs his own advertising agency in Brisbane, Australia. Greg also

studied defense force psychology at university, including research on soldiers with PTSD. His research has taken him all over the world – from Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima, the key bookends to World War II in the Pacific. His research has been ably assisted by archivists, museum staff and Australian War Memorial researchers.

As part of his numismatic research, Greg has scoured declassified documents from the Australian Government's archives and uncovered fascinating stories, including MacArthur's counterfeiting operations in Brisbane.

His keynote presentation will be at 1315 hrs on April 2 where he will discuss his favorite topic--Japanese Invasion Money--and share some of his adventures in collecting. After the presentation, he will autograph copies of his book. Only a few copies will be available at the presentation. Collectors are encouraged to bring their copies for autographing



## **EDITORIAL**

### **Port Clinton, OH Fest XVII**

Welcome to the new and improved MPC GRAM. As you see, we now can include images and we have updated our subscriber listings to over 670 readers.

We are sending out this trial run with a minimum of information as a test to make sure all of you are now getting the Gram. In the next week or so we will get the content back into the form we used previously, with some exceptions, and in the meantime, we encourage you to send us your comments and articles.

You can reply to the email address list, or you can use [mpcgram@yahoo.com](mailto:mpcgram@yahoo.com), at least, for the time being.

-THE GRAM TEAM

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**Fest XVII Report**



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Valkenburg,  
The Netherlands  
MPC Fest VXII  
Part One

**SHOW CALENDAR**

As we have done for the past few years, Dave Frank and I planned to meet in Detroit and drive down to Port Clinton. This year we also had Brian Giese and new Fester Steve Pomex with us. It was a rainy and windy drive south, but we made it in good shape.

The first change from Fest XVI we saw was a booklet containing not only the Training Schedule, but all the information we needed for a successful Fest. That included a company breakdown, the March Madness brackets and the auction list.

After some meet and greet, we all got settled in. It was good to see Warner Talso back after a two year hiatus. The first order of business was our annual banquet, this year held at Dianna's which is walking distance from Headquarters. We had used Dianna's as a lunch venue in previous years. We were seated at two large tables which gave us the chance to visit and catch up.

After dinner we were off to Camp Perry for some shooting. This event was popular last year and this time it was made into a rifle competition. I had opted for pistol last time and rifle was a change but I gave it a try and had some success, although not as much as I would have liked. We had a practice/sighting in round and afterwards the competition started with each of us getting 20 rounds of pellet ammo. The results were not disclosed until Saturday evening so will you have

to wait until then to see who the top three shooters were. I can tell you I did not make the cut. Bill Myers created a special MFC issue for the event and that, along with other issues will be available for subsequent Grams.

I have spoken before about Neil Shafer's magic briefcase,(more on that later) but there is another briefcase that often holds some items of special interest and that belongs to Larry Smulczewski. This time the case held an Italian gasoline ration card with the stub still attached. It made a nice addition to my Italian related collection. Speaking of Ski, his Fest XVII short snortner was a \$10 North Africa note. He had exhausted all issues of MPC and now needs to branch out into other series.

To be continued.....

## **EDITORIAL**

The turn around from Fest to Valkenburg was only a day and a half. I returned home Sunday night as was off to Europe on Tuesday, leaving me little time to get a report out. I didn't have the opportunity to scan any of the special issues other new series of MFC into the computer, but that will be taken care of when I return early next week. Hopefully, if our Educational presenters will send us in some scans relating to their presentations, we can get them included with the report on their topics.

Our new format is still a work in progress and we should be up to speed with a complete format in the near future. We had a report from our host, Mail Chimp, that approximately 20% of the email addresses bounced, but I am not too concerned since the list of over 700 subscribers which was originally sent in was dated. The last issue reached over 500 Gramsters and that is a vast improvement over what we were used to. It can only get better from this point on.

Gram output is dependent on Gram input, so please send in your reports and letters.

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### Official war and stamp greeting cards

by Bob Olson

The Treasury Department approved the production and distribution of greeting cards promoting the sale of defense and war savings stamps.

The text on the back identifies the publisher of the cards as the Greeting Card Industry, Inc.

Most interestingly the three cards have unique identification numbers. The three seen are: 5WS306, 5WS308, 5WS402. The proximity of the 306 and 308 seem logical, but 402 indicates that about one hundred different cards were issued. While this is possible, it seems unlikely. Obviously reports of more cards are needed.

DS101 © 1941 A Gift of Defense Stamps with the Season's Best Wishes  
5WS302 Birthday with a 10¢ Defense (over stamped with War) Stamp Album

5WS303 Birthday with a 10¢ War Stamp Album

5WS306

5WS307 A Salute to You with a 10¢ Stamp Album

5WS308

5WS402 Christmas with a small envelope to insert a war savings stamps  
The text on the back:

5WS306

### Editorial

First an apology. The photographs of Bob Olson in 2322 and below were taken by and courtesy of Kris Tolek. She and husband and fellow Fester Cuneyd Tolek are the new reporters and photographers at the Fest. They are also editors of the Fest year book.

We were a little late getting the news out on Bob's death, but still it was more timely than can be achieved by most nation and worldwide communities. We have seen over and over that the ability for the Gram to send breaking news is a powerful strength.

True, we have not done great with regard to frequency for 2016, but we have been working on that. We will have announcements soon in that regard.



We have been very busy here at Gram HQ. Bob's passing and the early holidays this year have made it very busy. I really thought that I would have a few more weeks to prepare for Christmas.

It is sad for me to move on to holiday greetings at the same time that we are mourning Bob (see letters), but I am confident that in his own quiet way, Bob would encourage us to move on and we will. We can do it in the warmth of his smile looking over us.

This topic was made much easier for me by 1SG (Fest) Billy Myers greetings. I have stolen his image of Santa at work on the deck of an aircraft carrier on a POG-- no less--for this greeting.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to Gramsters far and wide.

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## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*



Dear Gram,

I first met Bob Olson at Fest V. It was my first Fest and his second. I remember the look on Neil Shafer's face when there was someone there from Wisconsin that neither of us knew.

Starting with Fest VII or so, Bob, Neil and I drove together from Milwaukee to the Fest. We went in Bob's car and he insisted on doing all the driving at first. The rides always went the same way. Neil and I would talk about issues in the hobby while Bob listened intently. Invariably, Neil would fall asleep somewhere around Chicago. Bob would ask questions about the earlier conversation and we would discuss his Fest presentation, new acquisitions and the work he was doing on military chits.

He met me at home and in my office a few times to trade. I bought most of his MPC to fill the holes in my collection. He dropped in this summer to trade his 701 set for some Foreign Trade Payment Certificates.

Bob was a quiet guy and rarely forthcoming about his collection. But if you asked him in the right way, he would talk about it. Over the years I learned that he had a penchant for Danish notes. I also learned fairly recently that he collected WWII war bonds. He bought one from me a few years ago that was issued by a bank in a small town in northern Wisconsin. But that was the only interest he had shown to me about it. I found this a little peculiar since I had co-authored a book on the subject and had discussed them in his presence on more than one occasion.

One thing that became clear to me about Bob's collection was that he was only interested in quality material. After seeing his MPC collection and a few other pieces he had it was obvious that he was a serious collector and not afraid to spend money on his collection.

You never would have guessed that from his outward persona. As Festers know, Bob gave a presentation every year at the Fest. His delivery was not always fluid and he seemed to stumble a lot, almost forgetful. He admitted to me on one of the drives that he was not comfortable speaking to a group. He also seemed overly concerned about whether people would like his topics. On one of our trips to the Fest he noted that no one else at the Fest collected what he was going to

talk about. He seemed anxious about boring the audience. I told him not to worry about it. My philosophy as a speaker has always been that if people are not interested in what you are speaking about then they should be doing it instead.

I was contacted a few weeks ago by one of his neighbors. Bob was in the hospital with kidney failure. It was an adverse reaction to a medication he started taking. She said that he wanted to talk to me. Bob would occasionally ask me about doing estate planning documents for him but he had never gotten around to it. I assumed that his hospital stay gave new urgency to this.

I talked to him on December 6. He sounded pretty weak but said he was improving. He said he was probably going to have to move into assisted living and wanted me to help him dispose of his collection. I assumed this was his medication talking and things were not that serious. I was able to see him in the hospital on December 9. He looked good and sounded much better than when I spoke to him a few days before. We discussed what he wanted done with his collection and most of his other property. Based on what I saw of him, he was improving and I thought he was just preparing for the worst but that he would get his strength back and be fine.

He expected to be going home in a few days or possibly to assisted living for recuperative care. We discussed meeting at his house on December 26 to go over the collection and get direction of what to do with it. I called the house a few times this past week but did not get an answer. I called his neighbor and she told me he passed away.

The drive to Port Clinton will be a little longer this year.

Jim Downey

To Bob Olson, a true friend:

News of Bob's death both surprised and shocked me, especially since Jim Downey had recently written that he seemed to be doing somewhat better.

Bob, Jim and I traveled together a number of times to the Fest, and those trips were always quite enjoyable. Bob had mentioned that he was interested in the club chits used during the Vietnam War. His interest grew to the point that he self-published a volume on those chits this year; he had asked me to review some chapters before publication, and I was very pleased to have provided this assistance. I was also fortunate enough to have purchased a copy from him this past summer during one of his visits to the IBNS Midwest Chapter meetings. In fact, it piqued my interest to the point that I had gathered up a number of different chits including a fair-sized selection of Vietnam issues and was preparing an album of these pieces just to show Bob.

Bob was a quiet, friendly, unassuming and gentle soul, always willing to help or participate as much as possible in any numismatic activity. He will be sorely missed.

Neil Shafer

Dear Gram

I first met Bob Olson at the MPC Fest and since we were both First Sergeants we were often exchanging ideas. Bob had a large variety of collecting interest and many were in common between the both of us and we both enjoyed talking about them. We would trade material so both of our collections would grow. I always enjoyed seeing Bob Olson and I will miss our talks. Bob will be missed by me and many in the numismatic community. May he find joy in the great bourse in the heaven.

Bill Myers

Dear Gram,

Maybe it is too soon and maybe I am too close to him, but would you consider naming the training award for him?

I know there are others who have done more in the areas of research and may be more deserving but I would at least want you to consider this. Bob was not the most polished presenter and did not always have slick presentations. He told me he was nervous about presenting because he did not like to talk in front of groups. His research was not groundbreaking and sometimes not thorough. He often asked me for research assistance and wondered whether anyone would really be interested in what he was presenting.

Sounds like the perfect candidate for naming an award after, right?

Despite these shortcomings (of which he was keenly aware), Bob came up with a new presentation every year. He was the ordinary guy who got up and talked about what he loved. Isn't that what it is all about?

Jim Downey

Dear Gram,

I am so sorry to hear about Bob. I think I actually have his presentation for this Fest on cd... he always gave them to me at Memphis. Such a nice person and, in terms of his presentations, I agree with you--he wanted to share what he was interested in and the fact that he stood up to do so nervously actually speaks volumes. He will definitely be missed.

Jim, you may have heard that I will actually not be at the Fest myself (baby [Fester] #2 en route!), but perhaps Dad Feller and I can talk about naming the award (an idea I like) and perhaps a little blurb explaining why.

ray

Dear Gram,

I knew Bob through his interest in military money. He was a friend to all and characteristically rather quiet about his accomplishments. He always gave a heartfelt talk at our annual MPCFests in Port Clinton, OH.

Steve Feller

Dear Gram,

I was sad to hear of Bob's passing. I might suggest that facebook would offer a solution. I know there is already an MPC Fest group with 40 of us in it. Just a thought. John and I hope you have a very merry Christmas and a blessed year.

Chenys

Dear Gram,

We want to wish you and all Gramsters (and all collectors for that matter) a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017. We hope to see you at the Fest.

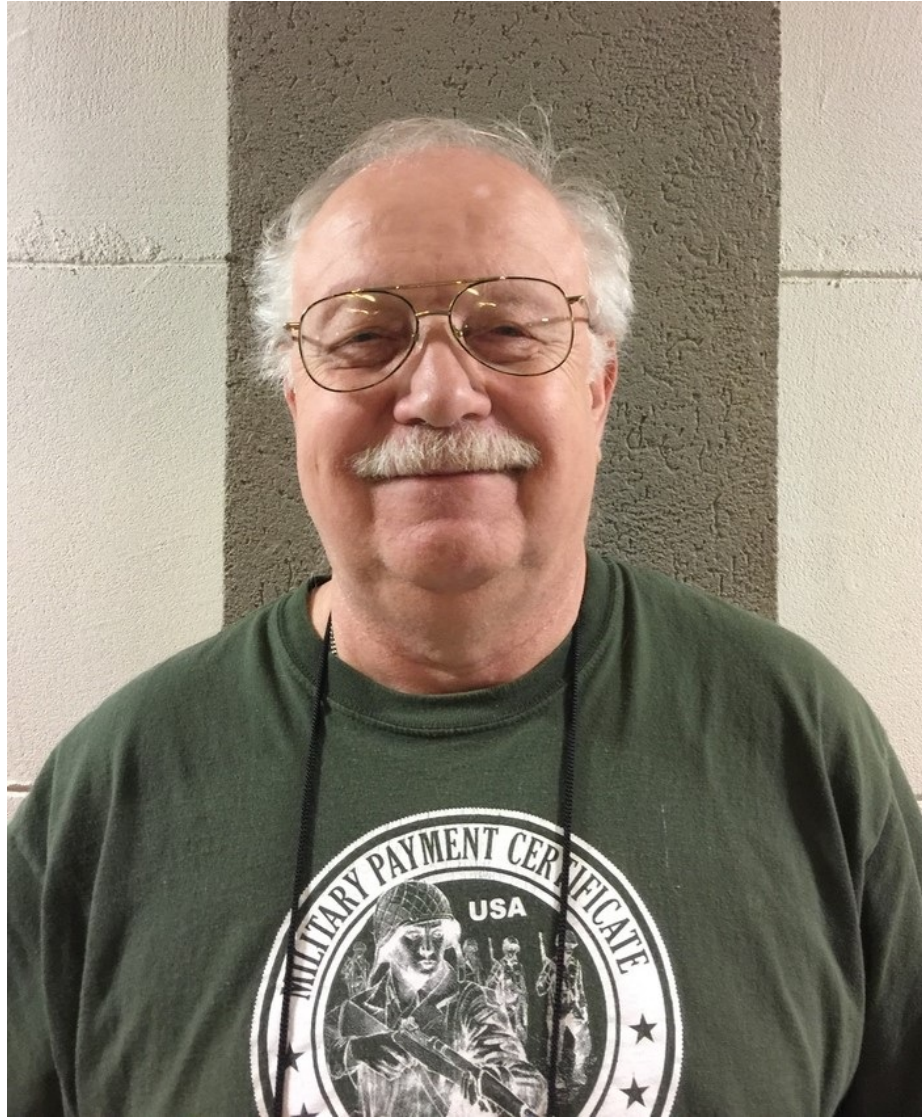
Bill & Kathy

Dear Gram,

The 2017 ANA National Money will be in Orlando is March 9-11. I will be at this show and will not be attending Fest 18. Please put it in the Training Schedule (Gram Calendar) and mention that I will be

there. I am hoping there will be other Festers/Gramsters attending it and maybe we can have a miniFest.

The Master Sergeant Daniel



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### **Training Schedule (Gram Calendar)**

The Gram calendar is different from most numismatic calendars. We strive to list events that are of specific interest to Gramsters. This does not mean that we will not list general coin or paper money shows, but there should be something of special interest to collectors of military numismatic items. We will be happy to list non traditional events if they meet the special interest criteria.

### **2017**

**Jan 6-8--FUN** (Florida United Numismatists)--show attended by many Festers.

**March 9-11** ANA National Money Show Orlando.  
Howard Daniel and Joe Boling will be in attendance.

**March 12** The Waukesha Coin Club will hold its 48th Annual Coin Show on Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin, WI  
Fester Dave Hunsicker will have a table at the show and Fester John Watta will be the MC of the show.

For more information, go to: [www.waukeshacoinclub.com](http://www.waukeshacoinclub.com)

**March 31 - April 2--MPCFest 18.** Make your reservations now. Call Kim at 419 732-7322.

### **Fest Hotel Renovations**

Kim, commander of the Camp Leo May caserne, aka Holiday Inn Express Port Clinton and Catawba Island has announced the the hotel will be undergoing renovations the entire month of April 2017. The entire third floor will be closed. This drastically reduces barracks space for Fest 18. It is more important than ever that Festers and prospective Festers make there reservations. Call Kim at 419 732 7322. Clear communications are authorized.

**June 7-11** IPMS (formerly widely known as Memphis) Kansas City, MO. further details TBA.

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### **Gram Exchange**

*Do you have something for sale (or trade)? You can offer these items here in the Gram Exchange. Send your text and images (!) to the editor for inclusion in the Gram Exchange.*

United States Pattern & Experimental Pieces of WWII by Roger Burdette important and scarce book. One copy only available on ebay.

[http://www.ebay.com/itm/important-and-great-new-book-Burdette-US-Pattern-Experimental-pieces-of-WWII-/332070436579?](http://www.ebay.com/itm/important-and-great-new-book-Burdette-US-Pattern-Experimental-pieces-of-WWII-/332070436579?ssPageName=STRK:MESE:IT)  
[ssPageName=STRK:MESE:IT](http://www.ebay.com/itm/important-and-great-new-book-Burdette-US-Pattern-Experimental-pieces-of-WWII-/332070436579?ssPageName=STRK:MESE:IT)

Army-Navy E award playing card. Available for sale on ebay:  
<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Army-Navy-E-Award-playing-card-Keokuk-Electro-Metals-Keokuk-IA-/232183258248?ssPageName=STRK:MESE:IT>

[Above are experimental sales listings where two items that are for sale on ebay are more or less cross referenced here. Your comments will be appreciated. Unfortunately we could not list an item from David Seelye in the Gram because of a little technical SNAFU. This could also be characterized as an operator training issue.

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